



PATENT

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January 21, 2004

Date

Tamra Miller

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Vishnu K. Agarwal

Serial No. : 09/652,993

Filed : August 31, 2000

Attorney Docket No.: 501082.04 (98-0616.03)

Group Art Unit : 2815

Examiner : Jose R. Diaz

Confirmation No. : 4012

Date of Notice  
of Allowance : October 21, 2003

Title : DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING AGAINST OXIDATION OF A  
CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID DEVICE

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS**  
**FOR ALLOWANCE**

Sir:

While the combinations of elements recited in the allowed claims are allowable, the undersigned would like to point out that some or all of these individual elements may be broadened such that the resulting combination is still patentable. Applicant may elect to pursue

such claims, or to pursue claims directed to other aspects of the present invention, through a continuation or reissue application, or through a reexamination proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Arterberry", written in a cursive style.

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SHA:tlm

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